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THE RED CROSS

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Hanging above the tablet dedicating the marble building at National Headquarters, Washington, D. C., erected in honor of the Heroic Women of the Civil War to the use of the Red Cross, the Service Flag of the Department of Nursing bears testimony to the services of American women in the struggle which has just ended. A single blue star represents the 19,877 Red Cross nurses who have been in active duty with the Army and Navy Nurse Corps, and the Red Cross, overseas.

In memory of those nurses who have "gone west," 198 gold stars shine on this service flag. The first to appear were for Mrs. Edith B. Ayres and Helen Burnett Wood, both from Chicago, who were killed May 20, 1917, by the explosion of a defective shell on board the *S. S. Mongolia* while on their way to France with an early unit. One by one during the early days of our participation in the war, these stars began to appear. The influenza epidemic claimed eighty-one Red Cross nurses in cantonment hospitals in this country alone. The toll was also great, overseas. Two sisters, Viola and Ruth Lundholm, of Oakland, California, contracted this disease while on their way to France and were buried together at Madgalen Hill cemetery, Winchester, England, while others slipped away in Scotland, in France, in Belgium. Even in Germany, there is a white cross marking the grave of Jessie Baldwin, of Summerville, Pa., who died in line of duty, February 6, 1919, at Coblenz, Germany. The last gold star which has been sewn on this service flag is in memory of Jane A. Delano.

"The Lady with the Lamp" has become a holy tradition to the British soldier. Ask the American doughboy, in his turn, what he thinks of the Army Nurse! She has carried the ideals of Florence Nightingale and other pioneer English and American nurses almost to the front lines of war. Wherever she has gone, she has brought cleanliness, order, peace, and the highest professional skill. Surely these two hundred Red Cross nurses, from the youngest graduate who stepped so eagerly from the doors of her training school into the privations and hardships of war service, to their great leader, Jane A. Delano, have proven forever, with the other American dead, that "greater love hath no man than this * * *"



Fastening on the Gold Star for Jane A. Delano

TO RE-EDUCATE ARMY AND NAVY NURSES

Any nurse serving under the Army or Navy Nurse Corps is entitled to the benefits of the Vocational Rehabilitation Act, provided her disability was incurred while in active service.

Uncle Sam provides for the women disabled in his service as well as for the men. The Federal Board for Vocational Education has a number of women disabled in service registered in vocational courses who are receiving the same consideration during their training as disabled men. One nurse who contracted tuberculosis while on duty is going to be trained for some work not so taxing, after her case has been arrested. Another Army Nurse with serious heart trouble, the after-effects of diphtheria, is preparing to be a landscape gardener.

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE VS. KAISER GERM

"You'd be quite entertained," writes a Red Cross Nurse now on the Chautauqua platform, "at the very dramatic introduction I have. Our program is worked out so that my speech is always preceded by music, and our baritone, who is a wonder, gets up after the rest of the 'Talent' have left the stage, and sings a verse of the 'Rose of No-Man's Land.' When he reaches the lines 'Mid the war's great curse, stands the Red Cross Nurse,' the American flag is pulled to one side and there I stand between it and a Red Cross flag. Then, without further parley, after the applause has died down, I begin.

"Oh, but I am having a fine time firing off all my ammunition at Kaiser Germ and his great ally, General Ignorance. Of course General Knowledge is the leader of the allied armies of the Red Cross Societies, and what we won't do to those arch conspirators hasn't come within my consciousness! It's a splendid picture—Christ the greatest of all public health workers, His teachings, the spirit of the Red Cross and all the other organizations, and the latest scientific discoveries of General Knowledge to combat Kaiser Germ and General Ignorance."

RED CROSS PINS

Numerous inquiries concerning the use of the Red Cross pin have reached National Headquarters. Many of the nurses are under the impression that they are not permitted to wear this pin unless they are in uniform. It would appear a most desirable thing, especially during the next few months that all Red Cross nurses should wear their pins.

The Red Cross pin is a protection under certain circumstances and furthermore immediately establishes a point of contact between nurse members of the Red Cross. When worn out of uniform it may be worn as any decoration,—on the left side.

LAND GRANTS FOR NURSES

"Hey, there Army and Navy Nurses, do you want a home on a Farm?" This is the question which Uncle Sam is asking the nineteen thousand American nurses who have now been released from military service. The United States Reclamation Service bill, which passed Congress at the special session, is undertaking to develop "coöperative farm settlements for soldiers and sailors in all the states." This land is located practically in every state in the Union—"dry land in the West which needs water, which can be provided by building dams and canals. In the East are large areas of cut-over or logged-out timber land, from which it will be necessary to blow the stumps and clear off the underbrush. In the South is a large amount of cut-over land and swamp land which must be drained. The government will have work of all kinds, in connection with these settlements, for the highest technical and clerical positions to that of the laborer."

Any Red Cross nurse who has been assigned to and served with the Army and Navy Nurse Corps, either during the Mexican border activities or the war with Germany, and has been honorably discharged, will be entitled to take up land grants under the Homestead Laws, and "is entitled to have the term of his service but not exceeding ten years, deducted from the three years' residence required by the Homestead Laws. If his service continues after the end of the war, under the same enlistment (having served 90 days during the war), he may have credit for his entire period of service. If he is discharged on account of wounds or disability incurred in line of duty, he obtains credit for his whole term of enlistment; said term extends to the end of the war if he enlisted or was drafted for its duration. However, in neither of these cases can the credit given exceed two years."

As applied to Red Cross nurses assigned to the Army and Navy Nurse Corps, within the meaning of this Act, their beginning of service dates only "from the time they actually became identified with and a part of, the military or naval forces of the United States." Complete information regarding this project may be obtained by writing to the Department of the Interior, Washington, D. C. This subject is well worth the serious consideration of all nurses who have been in war service, although in the case of those who wear three gold chevrons on their arms, the same question arises in their instance as in that of the returning doughboy, which is tersely if somewhat slangily expressed in a recent popular song: "How You Gonna Keep 'Em Down on the Farm?"